

Governor Announces Travelers Coming to Massachusetts are Advised to Self-Quarantine for 14 Days

By [Steph Solis | ssolis@masslive.com](mailto:ssolis@masslive.com)

People coming into Massachusetts are advised to self-quarantine for 14 days to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, Gov. Charlie Baker said Friday.

Baker announced the new travel advisory during Friday's news conference at the Massachusetts State House. He cited the situation in New York City and the tri-state-area as a primary concern.

"We want you to spend two weeks in self-quarantine," Baker said.

New York City is currently the nation's epicenter of the coronavirus. Of the 1,301 deaths in the U.S., 365 have been reported in New York City, according to the virus tracker at [Johns Hopkins University](#).

Yet Kent Sepkowitz, CNN medical analyst, [told the TV station](#) that it's only a matter of time before other major U.S. cities see similar surges.

"The notion that the book is written on how this is going to play out across the country is dangerous," said Sepkowitz, a professor of Medicine and Infectious Diseases at the Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. "We're seeing New Orleans going up now, Detroit. (In) the next few weeks, many cities will have a New York story."

The United States became the country with the highest number of cases on Thursday. As of 11 a.m. Friday, the nation has more than 86,000 confirmed coronavirus cases.

In Massachusetts, 25 people have died and [2,417 have tested positive](#) for the coronavirus, according to figures released Thursday by the state Department of Public Health.

Baker's travel restrictions apply to people coming in from out-of-state who arrive at Boston Logan International Airport and South Station, as well as those who drive into Massachusetts. Health care workers, public health workers, transportation workers are exempt.

Baker urged people to use telemedicine if they're starting to show mild symptoms in lieu of visiting a health care provider in person. He also used an online tool to offer medical information.

"It is not to be used in place of emergency medical care," he said.